

This year, Mr. Pedroia has surpassed his performance last season by leading the American League in hits, runs, and doubles while also batting in 83 runs and hitting 17 home runs in his own right. He has now become the third player in the history of Major League Baseball to win the rookie of the year award and the most valuable player award in consecutive seasons, as well as winning the golden glove award for best fielding performance at second base.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor this fine athlete. His record of accomplishments is a testament to his talent, perseverance and character, as well as an indication of a promising career that is just beginning. I join the entire community in congratulating him for these achievements and wishing him and his family all the best in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL E. LANZA
AND ELVA M. POUNDERS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Samuel E. Lanza of Warren, Ohio and Ms. Elva M. Pounders of Akron, Ohio. In recognition of their honorable service to our nation and selfless dedication to their communities, Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders have been inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame as members of the Class of 2008.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was founded in 1992 in an effort to honor and to raise awareness of the outstanding military service and post-military accomplishments of Ohio veterans. Each year, an executive committee reviews scores of applications received from across the Nation and recommends 20 inductees to the Governor. These inductees represent each branch of the military and have served in armed conflicts spanning from World War II to Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Since its inception, the OVHOF has inducted nearly 900 veterans who, like Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders, have demonstrated a lifelong devotion to country and to community.

Mr. Samuel Lanza served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II and, after his discharge, continued his civil service by advocating and assisting his fellow veterans. He joined the Disabled American Veterans in 1948 and eventually served in every elected position at the DAV including State Commander. Mr. Lanza is a Life Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, and the American Legion. Additionally, Mr. Lanza participates as a member of the National Association for Uniformed Services and the past President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. For more than 45 years, Mr. Lanza has taken an active role in Memorial Day parades and decorated the graves of deceased veterans. For more than 27 years, he has transported his fellow veterans to VA hospitals and other medical appointments. In 1997, Mr. Lanza was appointed to the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission.

Ms. Elva Pounders served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era. Upon her retirement from the Corps after 20 years of active duty which she achieved Marine first sergeant rank, Elva made a commitment to assisting the veterans of her community. Concerned with veterans' healthcare, Ms. Pounders worked part-time at a pharmacy and delivered medicine and supplies to shut-in veterans. She volunteered in VA clinics and medical facilities in Akron and Brecksville, and in 2006, the Brecksville VA Medical Center awarded Ms. Pounders the 500 Hour Award. Ms. Pounders is a Life Member of the Marine Corps League, American Legion, North Coast WAVES 21, and the Retired Enlisted Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. She is the vice chairwoman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and she has served as a committee member with Summit County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans.

Ms. Pounders serves as the Vice Chairperson for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. In 2007, in acknowledgement of her exceptional commitment to local veterans, the Summit County Veterans Service Commission recognized Ms. Pounders as "Summit County Veteran of the Year."

I would like to commend Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders for their extraordinary service and commitment, both in the military and in their communities.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMIE CATLIN PRAYTOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Jamie Catlin Praytor and pay tribute to her memory.

A realtor for four decades, Jamie was known to many throughout southwest Alabama as the founder and president of Praytor Realty; however, it was her longtime work with area charities and civic groups that gave her such a special place in so many of our hearts.

Jamie served as chairwoman of the Homeless Coalition Task Force, and she was involved with the Salvation Army and in fundraising for the American Diabetes Association. She also served on numerous boards including: Forward Mobile, Art Patrons League, Allied Arts Council, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Mobile United, Alabama School of Math and Science, Junior Achievement, USA Small Business Development Center, Mobile 2000, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, Florence Crittendon Home, and Mobile Sunrise Rotary Club. Jamie was instrumental in helping to establish McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women and children.

Named Realtor of the Year in 1981, Jamie was an institution among Alabama realtors. In 1974, she opened Praytor Realty with an all-female sales staff, which was unique at the time. Labeled "Praytor's Pretties" by The Birmingham News, Jamie and her team quickly built a highly successful and respected company. Jamie gave much of her time to the realtor community as well. She was elected

president of the local Board of Realtors and became president of the state association in 1992. This year, the Mobile Association of Realtors established the Jamie C. Praytor Humanitarian Award, honoring her service. In 2001, Jamie was chosen First Lady of Mobile.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Jamie was a member of All Saint's Episcopal Church. She had served as stewardship chairwoman, vestry member, Altar Guild group leader and president of the women of the church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Tommy, Jamie Catlin Praytor will be dearly missed by her family—her daughter, Ellen Praytor Wingard; her sons, Hugh Thomas Praytor III and Wilson Wrath Praytor; four grandchildren, Hayley Catlin Praytor, Hugh Thomas Praytor IV, Charles Lee Wingard Jr. and Blake Dixon Wingard; her sisters, Anita Catlin Miller and Martha Catlin Willcox; her brothers, Paul W. Catlin, James G. Catlin, and Charles P. Catlin—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING BRANDON JAMES
O'BRIEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James O'Brien of Kansas City, Missouri. Brandon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon James O'Brien for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING A TRUE SURVIVOR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, many people, trapped in a cycle of despair, feel that there is no way out of homelessness, addiction, or prostitution. Exploitative pimps, callously indifferent law enforcement, and a lack of social services combine to make it almost impossible for some to escape the streets. Norma Hotaling not only successfully left that life, but has devoted herself to leading the fight to help those who remain behind.

Ms. Hotaling founded the organization Stand Against Global Exploitation (SAGE). SAGE is devoted to helping women and men who have suffered rape, sexual assault, molestation or violence in the difficult transition from victim to survivor. As her organization has said, "Norma [is] determined to make it easier for other women, men and youth who wanted to leave the sex trade and addiction behind, and find their way from the harsh effects of sexual exploitation to restored wellness, confidence, vocation, and overall wholeness."

Through peer counselling—often by survivors—SAGE not only provides psychological and social services to prostitutes and those exiting prostitution, but also empowers the women once they have left the streets. Ms. Hotaling's efforts show that therapy should not be thought of as a luxury for the wealthy: everyone should be able to get psychological services.

Norma Hotaling is a trailblazer. She encourages psychologists around the country to work with their local law enforcement offices to help women and children exploited by prostitution. She founded San Francisco's internationally recognized "john school" in which arrested clients confront the reality of prostitution. Her outreach programs in jails and on the street raise awareness among at-risk populations about how commercial sexual exploitation can lead to addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sadly, Ms. Hotaling is now in an even graver fight—the fight against cancer. We wish her comfort, and all the best. She is supported in her fight by thousands of people whose lives she has touched. Norma Hotaling's life is an inspiration, and her example will continue to inform our own fight against modern slavery and exploitation.

NICK LAMPSON DELIVERS HIS
FAREWELL ADDRESS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to serve with you these past 2 years in the 110th Congress. It's been an honor to serve the 22d Congressional District of Texas.

I'm grateful for the assistance I received from my friends in the leadership: Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Chairman VAN HOLLEN and the man who convinced me to run again in 2006, my friend, RAHM EMANUEL.

I'm grateful for the work of my fellow Blue Dogs; those who helped me fight for NASA, rebuild after Hurricane Ike, protect our children, and restore civility and esteem to Congress.

Hopefully before I leave today I will be able to thank each of you individually but while I have the opportunity I'd like to express my gratitude for everything you all have done.

To my family who I love very much, thank you for standing by me, thank you for sacrificing, and thank you for supporting me; you gave me strength to serve and helped carry me through the good times and the bad. My daughters Stephanie Lampson Gertz and Hilary Lampson Shanning, and their husbands

Ryan and Mark. My beautiful grandchildren who bring me so much pride and joy: Nicholas, Joseph, Olivia, Caroline, and Julianna, who will be born any day.

And especially my wife of 37 years, Susan, who has loved me and sacrificed for her country by allowing me to spend weeks and months away from home to serve. She is a talented teacher, a loving mother, a strong wife, and a tender grandmother. I am blessed to have her love and support.

Finally, I'd like to thank my staff who worked long days and long nights, weekdays and weekends, and literally did the impossible. Carl Beard, John Boerstler, Carrie Chess, Dan Easley, Erin Fyfe, Rick Guerrero, Kathy Guillory, Georgia Leigh Hearn, Jon Heins, Suzanne Jordan, Trevor Kincaid, Chris Matthiesen, Alastair Rami, Tony Samp, Abby Shannon, Mini Timmaraju, Brittani Williams, Nicholas Williams, and Adeel Zeb; your hard work, dedication, and talents never failed me and are the reason we succeeded beyond the most optimistic expectations. Thank you.

Many of you were with me about this time 2 years when we sent a message that partisan politics and corruption were a thing of the past. That was a great day. In a similar speech on this House floor not too long ago, another outgoing Member called for more partisanship and less compromise. I have been here to emphatically support the opposite message. I stand before you as proof that bipartisanship and working together can and has worked and will work again, if you let it.

Since then, we have made terrific progress to restore ethics, compromise, civility, and hope to Congress and government. There is a tsunami of change and hope that has swept across this country and it all started when a modest, dedicated Texas Congressman brought down "The Hammer."

My journey will end today but the movement we started will continue.

Our movement to change the culture in Washington has made great progress but the road is long and many challenges lie ahead.

There are many Republicans and Democrats who have taken up the charge and will see it through to the end. It is a movement that will allow America to move beyond the corruption and political divide that has plagued us for too long. We are now in a time of challenge, but a period of hope.

The arc of change is slow, but it bends toward justice.

That was the observation of Dr. Martin Luther King many decades ago when this country was being tried by a different type of division. Together, we overcame and today we are closer to changing the culture of this Congress than we were yesterday and I have full faith that tomorrow we will be closer than we are today.

We remember the past.

We live in the present.

And we plan for the future.

It has been an honor to serve these past 2 years. However, it is time to start looking to tomorrow.

Scripture tells us, "Joy cometh in the morning."

Tomorrow will be a better day in America and the day after that and the day after that.

America's course has been charted on a timeline of achievement. We are a nation that when presented with obstacles says, "yes we can."

We are a country built on a foundation of equality, justice, and liberty.

We are a nation that when in the darkest days of depression stood and went to work.

We are a people that when confronted with sickness affecting millions, didn't give up; we found the cure.

We are a society that was presented with an impossible challenge, and less than a decade later watched as an American flag was planted on the Moon.

We will face more challenges, we will come to walls seemingly too high to scale, and people will say, "you can't." But, together we will say "yes we can" and we will.

We will again walk on the Moon; only to go further.

We will find the cures to the illnesses of our generation.

We will roll up our sleeves and solve the energy puzzle.

We will fight poverty with compassion.

And we will combat despair with hope.

America's best days are still to come.

I thank you for the privilege to serve you and I thank you for everything you have done for my family and for me.

God bless you and may God bless America.

IN HONOR OF COSMO INSALACO,
FORMER FRESNO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a past Agricultural Commissioner of Fresno County, a valued voice for agriculture in Fresno County. On Monday, November 10th, 2008, Cosmo Insalaco passed away from a sudden illness at the age of 72.

Agriculture continues to be California's number one industry with Fresno County ranking as the number one agricultural producing county in California. The fertile soils of Fresno County support over 300 different crops, valued at 5 billion annually to the economy of California. Much has contributed to these bountiful crops, but a significant factor in Fresno County's agricultural success in the 1980s and 1990s was the presence of Cosmo Insalaco as its lead advocate.

Mr. Insalaco was no stranger to agriculture. Raised on a family farm in Watterton, Massachusetts, Cosmo later attended the University of Massachusetts, where he earned a degree in Horticulture. He continued his studies in Public Administration in the California school system before entering the Air Force.

Prior to becoming Fresno County's Agricultural Commissioner, Mr. Insalaco served as Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in Santa Clara County, and as an Assistant Agricultural Commissioner for San Mateo County. While in Fresno County, Cosmo served as vice-president of Agribusiness in the Fresno County and City Chamber of Commerce. He was on the board of Directors of the California Agricultural Commissioners' and Sealers' Association. Always active in the community, Mr. Insalaco continued to return to Fresno each year to judge at the Big Fresno Fair in the agriculture building.

Mr. Insalaco received much praise over the years for his leadership. The crop disasters of